

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 6-13, 16, 17, 19-26, 30, 31 and 33-44 are pending. Claims 6, 7, 19 and 20 are finally rejected. By this Supplemental Amendment, claims 6, 7, 19 and 20 are amended. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

Claims 27-41 and 44 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected Group. Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the process claims upon determination of allowance of the article claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Advisory Action indicates that the November 26, 2003 Amendment After Final Rejection has been entered, and that claims 3, 4, 8-13, 16, 17, 21-26, 42 and 43 are allowed. As such, claims 6 and 7 are amended to incorporate features from claim 8, and claims 19 and 20 are amended to incorporate features from claim 21.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Amendment Entry after Final Rejection

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: a) place the application in condition for allowance (for all the reasons discussed herein); b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search or consideration; c) place the application in better condition for appeal (if necessary); and d) address formal requirements of the Final Rejection and preceding Office Action.

The foregoing amendments do not raise any new issues after Final Rejection. Therefore, entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

II. The Pending Claims Define Over the Applied References

The Advisory Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,327,747 to Nakashima. This rejection is rendered moot by the incorporation of features

from allowed claim 8 into claim 6. Withdrawal of the rejection under §102 of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

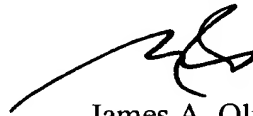
The Advisory Action further rejects claims 7, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ono in view of Nakashima. This rejection is rendered moot by the incorporation of features from allowed claim 8 into claim 7, and the incorporation of features from allowed claim 21 into claims 19 and 20. Withdrawal of the rejection under §103 of claims 7, 19 and 20 is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 29, 2003

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